

[REDACTED]

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-23, 26-34, 37-39, 43-46, 49-50, and 52 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 20, 31, 38, 43-44, 46, 49, and 52 have been amended and no new matter has been added. The support of the amendment can be found in the specification of the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for placing Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-23, 26-34 and 37 under allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

The Office Action has objected to Claims 11, 20, 31, 38, 44, and 49 due to the informalities. The Applicants have amended Claims 11, 20, 31, 38, 44, and 49 to cure the informalities in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Consequently, this objection is traversed.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

The Office Action further rejects Claims 1-5, 8-10 and 38-53 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 40-42, 47-48, 51, and 53 are canceled. Claims 1, 38, 43-44, 46, 49, and 52 have been amended, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under section 112 are overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 38-40, 44-45, 48-50 and 53 are further rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ermer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,380,601) in review of Wiesmann (U.S. Pat. No. 4,634,605) and in view of Stanbery (U.S. Pat. No. 4,322,571). Without admitting that Ermer, Wiesmann, and Stanbery are prior art and reserving the right to establish that Ermer,

Wiesmann, and Stanbery are not prior art, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter claimed in Claims 42, 47, 51 into independent Claims 38, 44, 49, respectively. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejections under section 103 are overcome.

CONCLUSION

5 Based on all of the above, Applicants believe all claims now pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

 If there are any additional charges concerning this response, please charge to White & Case LLP Deposit Account 23-1703. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully examining
10 the present application and if a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (650) 213-0300.

Respectfully submitted,

15 Dated: February 4, 2004

By:



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20